

# Scott D. Pelath

State Representative

District 9



How To Reach  
Representative

**Scott D. Pelath**

**RESIDENCE**

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**ANSWER THE  
QUESTIONNAIRE ONLINE**

[www.state.in.us/R9](http://www.state.in.us/R9)

Fall, 1999

Dear Friends,

The General Assembly met for Organization Day on Tuesday, November 16.

The 2000 session is a "short" session, meaning we will begin session January 10 and finish before March 15.

In the short session, each House member may introduce only five pieces of legislation. While we will not re-open the two-year state budget passed earlier this year, the possibility remains that we may fine-tune some of the appropriations outlined in that legislation.

Inside this newsletter is my legislative questionnaire. The questions will provide some details about the topics that may be brought before the legislature. Your opinion is valuable to me as I consider how I will vote.

If you have any concerns or suggestions for change in your state government, please contact me at 1-800-382-9842.

Sincerely,



## 2000 Page Program

Serving as a page during the 2000 session allows any child age 13 or older the opportunity to gain a firsthand glimpse of how the legislative system works. Students will be excused from school on the day they are serving as a page and will spend the entire day at the Statehouse.

Interested students should send me their name, parent or guardian's name, address, phone number, school and two different dates when the student could come to the Statehouse between January 10 and February 29, 2000.

Please remember session is short and places fill up fast, so apply as soon as possible.

*Our mission is to create an environment for Indiana's youth that is conducive to both fun and learning, and which will stimulate student interest in government and community involvement. To that end, we plan to educate students regarding legislative processes; to give students an opportunity to meet their community leaders; to encourage student involvement in the community; and to introduce students to other students around the state.*

# Reassessment -- *how will it affect you?*



*Rep. Pelath reviews legislation at his desk on the House floor.*

Last December the State Supreme Court ruled that the property assessment guidelines used in the collection of property taxes were unconstitutional because different types of property were not treated equitably. The Court mandates the State Tax Board to develop new guidelines based on “objectively verifiable data.”

I supported a bill to delay the reassessment. This would have allowed the Board time to work out a good program. This also would have given the Legislature time to review the guidelines and ease the shift to reassessment.

The reassessment will not increase the money generated by property taxes; it merely shifts the burden among taxpayers. While one taxpayer may see an increase, another taxpayer will have a decrease. I will do everything I can to ease the burden for

homeowners.

The new assessment guidelines mandated by the Indiana Supreme Court will affect property tax bills starting in 2002. Older homes will most likely see the largest increases because the guidelines are based on “market-value assessments.”

I am working to find alternative approaches which will prevent a tax shift to homeowners. I intend to do all I can to lower the property tax burden for people in my district.

## **1999 tax cuts total \$672 million**



I am very proud to have voted for the 1999 biennial state budget, which provides \$672 million in savings for Indiana taxpayers. I have detailed some of the tax cuts below.

- **Homeowners:** Property taxes on a taxpayer's principal place of residence can be deducted up to \$2,500. The deduction is located on Schedule 1 of the IT-40.
- **Senior citizens:** The income tax deduction for most seniors was increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500. Each qualified taxpayer may take this deduction, which means married couples may now deduct \$3,000 from their adjusted gross income. Many seniors also received an increase in the property tax deduction from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

- **Dependent children:** The income tax deduction was increased from \$1,000 to \$2,500 for dependent children under age 19 and full-time students under age 24. You may reduce your Indiana adjusted gross income for each qualifying dependent.
- **Renters:** The renters' income tax deduction was increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000. This deduction is located on Schedule 1 of the IT-40 or the back of the IT-40EZ.
- **Small businesses:** Businesses will no longer have to “add-back” property taxes deducted on their federal returns.
- **Inventory tax cuts:** The inventory tax was eliminated for 87 percent of Indiana farms and businesses, saving \$129.6 million.
- **Property tax cuts:** The county welfare funds and the county welfare administration funds were eliminated from local property taxes, saving \$67.6 million.

# 2000 Legislative Survey

## Questions

1. Should the state of Indiana eliminate the ISTEP program for testing students, and come up with another method of gauging progress in the classroom?
2. Do you believe the Indiana General Assembly should create a permanent commission designed to set salaries for elected officials, including the governor and members of the Legislature?
3. Should changes be made in state laws that would make Indiana riverboats more competitive with those in surrounding states?
4. In recent years, Illinois and Ohio have deregulated electric service. Do you believe Indiana should follow suit?
5. Do you believe inducements like enterprise zones and tax abatements are an effective use of tax dollars to spur economic development?
6. Do you believe the curriculum for public school students across Indiana should be changed to teach creationism rather than evolution?
7. Should the Legislature delay the implementation of new property assessment guidelines created by the State Board of Tax Commissioners that will shift the property tax burden to homeowners when they take effect?
8. Who should pay the largest share of property taxes?  
A. Agriculture    B. Business    C. Homeowners

## Responses

*Respondent 1*

*Respondent 2*

- |    |  |                                       |  |                                       |                                      |                                      |
|----|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | <b>Yes</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> | <b>No</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Yes</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> | <b>No</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> |                                      |                                      |
| 2. | <b>Yes</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> | <b>No</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Yes</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> | <b>No</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> |                                      |                                      |
| 3. | <b>Yes</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> | <b>No</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Yes</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> | <b>No</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> |                                      |                                      |
| 4. | <b>Yes</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> | <b>No</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Yes</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> | <b>No</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> |                                      |                                      |
| 5. | <b>Yes</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> | <b>No</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Yes</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> | <b>No</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> |                                      |                                      |
| 6. | <b>Yes</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> | <b>No</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Yes</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> | <b>No</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> |                                      |                                      |
| 7. | <b>Yes</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> | <b>No</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Yes</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> | <b>No</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> |                                      |                                      |
| 8. | <b>A</b><br><input type="checkbox"/>   | <b>B</b><br><input type="checkbox"/>  | <b>C</b><br><input type="checkbox"/>   | <b>A</b><br><input type="checkbox"/>  | <b>B</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> | <b>C</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> |

## Your Comments

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Place  
Stamp  
Here

Rep. Scott D. Pelath  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2786

House Publications Available

The following publications can be requested free of charge from my Statehouse office by calling toll-free 1-800-382-9842:

*Relax . . .* -- This informational booklet for senior citizens discusses a variety of issues, from taxes to health problems to leisure activities.

*Higher Education* -- A 24-page publication for those interested in pursuing a higher education degree, detailing many Indiana colleges and universities as well as occupational and vocational schools.

*Guide to State Agencies* -- This booklet details various agencies within Indiana state government, listing phone numbers, functions and general areas of responsibility for each of the state agencies.

*Hoosier Fun and Facts* -- Designed for elementary school-aged children, this information and activity book teaches students about their state through a combination of text, puzzles and other educational activities.

Is the address label on  
this mailing correct?

Please check the address label on this mailing for accuracy. If there are any errors or if you are receiving duplicate mailings, please contact my office at 1-800-382-9842. Every effort will be made to correct the mistake.

I appreciate your assistance in keeping the mailing list updated. This will ultimately result in more efficient delivery and substantial savings to taxpayers across the state.

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